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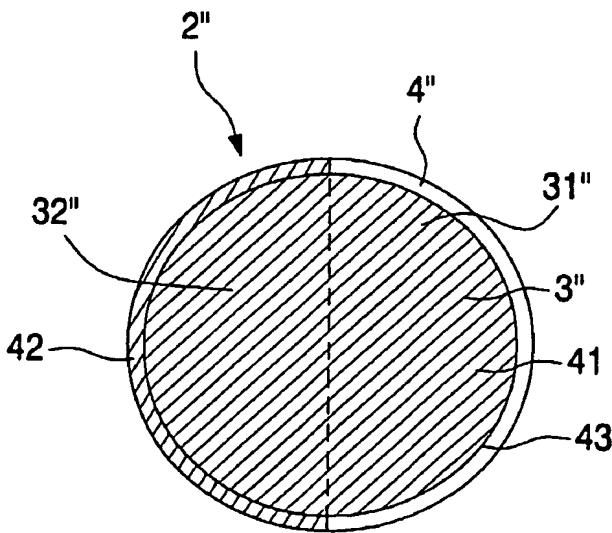
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: WEAR-INDICATING FILAMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a wear-indicating filament for use in a brush, comprising a central axis, a core extending along the central axis, said core being covered by a layer having a pre-determined resistance to wear, said layer wearing away over a pre-determined period of use dependent on its resistance to wear and exposing at least a part of the core after said period. The layer comprises a material which absorbs relatively little water and the core comprises, seen in a cross-section, at least two segments in an asymmetrical arrangement along the central axis of the filament, which segments have a mutually different absorption of water and show a difference in expansion when the layer has worn away and the core is exposed to water. When the at least two segments of the cross-section of the filament become exposed to water, the segments show a difference in absorption of water and a difference in expansion resulting from this absorption. The difference in expansion causes the filament to bend, which will be noticed by the user visually and during use of the brush on the teeth. This provides a clear indication that the brush should be replaced, because the bent filaments give a warning to the user in a visual manner and in a tactile manner.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	US 6 327 736 B1 (FIRATLI AHMET CEM ET AL) 11 December 2001 (2001-12-11) the whole document ---	1
A	GB 2 137 080 A (SCHLERT CORONET WERKE) 3 October 1984 (1984-10-03) the whole document ---	1,7
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